

FINAL MEETING MINUTES
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSIT COMMITTEE

February 12, 2015
Maricopa Association of Governments; Ironwood Room;
302 N. 1st Avenue, Suite 200
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

*ADOT: Vacant

Avondale: Kristen Sexton, Vice Chair

#Buckeye: Andrea Marquez

Chandler: Jason Crampton for RJ Zeder

El Mirage: Jose Macias

Gilbert: Kristin Myers

Glendale: Kevin Link for Debbie Albert

Goodyear: Cato Esquivel

#Maricopa: Ryan Wozniak for David Maestas

#Maricopa County DOT: Suparna Dasgupta

Mesa: Jeff Martin for Jodi Sorrell

*Paradise Valley: Jeremy Knapp

Peoria: Stuart Kent

Phoenix: Maria Hyatt, Chair

Queen Creek: Christine Sheehy for

Mohamed Youssef

Scottsdale: Ratna Korapella for Madeline

Clemann

Surprise: Martin Lucero

Tempe: Robert Yabes

*Tolleson: Chris Hagen

Valley Metro: Wulf Grote

Youngtown: Grant Anderson

*Members neither present nor represented by proxy + - Attended by Videoconference

- Attended by Audioconference

OTHERS PRESENT

Eileen Yazzie, MAG

Marc Pearsall, MAG

Margaret Boone, MAG

Alice Chen, MAG

DeDe Gaisthea, MAG

Teri Kennedy, MAG

Julie Walker, MAG

Ken Kessler, Phoenix

Ted Mariscal, Phoenix

David Kohlbeck, Surprise

Mike Nevarez, Tempe

Abhi Dayal, Valley Metro

Deron Lozano, AECOM

Steve Hogan, PB

Ann Rothove, ASU

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Chair Maria Hyatt. She welcomed everyone in attendance and announced that a quorum was present. She noted that three members were joining the meeting by teleconference: Andrea Marquez of Buckeye, Ryan Wozniak for David Maestas of Maricopa, and Suparna Dasgupta of MCDOT. She asked if there were any public comment cards, and there being none, proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

2. Approval of Draft January 8, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Chair Hyatt inquired if there were any comments or corrections to the Draft January 8, 2015 Minutes. Hearing no further comments, she called for a motion on the Draft January 8, 2015 Minutes. Jeff Martin of Mesa moved to approve the motion, Grant Anderson of Youngtown seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Chair Hyatt then proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

3. Call to the Audience

Chair Hyatt stated that she had not received any request to speak cards from the audience and moved onto the next item on the agenda.

4. Transit Program Manager's Report

Chair Hyatt invited Eileen Yazzie of MAG to brief the Committee with the Transit Program Manager's Report.

Ms. Yazzie reported that she had a handout that would assist as a part of her update. She noted that in December the Committee had a discussion about the UPWP, the Unified Planning Work Program, which is MAG's annual budget. She added that at the time, the committee discussed potential planning topics, which were included in the handout. She explained that there was a request for a new online or web-based tool for ridership/boarding, regarding the data that Valley Metro had been analyzing with the service planning working group. She advised that at present, Valley Metro and MAG staff believed that the focus should be on continuing to use Service Planning Working Group and their planning and analysis. She added that as the group gears up for performance based planning and recommended service standards in the future, and if the need should arise for an operations based tool, then it should be pursued there with the SPWG.

Regarding the WiFi study, Valley Metro was underway with a WiFi analysis and had been updating the committees at RPTA. The sidewalk analysis and inventory was important, but a regional analysis would be difficult to engage in. Member agencies currently have participated in the issue and Ms. Yazzie encourage communities to embark on this sidewalk inventories locally. The bus shelter design and materials concept idea was regarded as very important too, and thus it was recommended that it should be included in the Service Planning Working Group's proposed phase 3 of the Transit

Standards and Performance Measurements study. Additional comments were made on other items on the list. She also noted that the FY2015 5310 program had funding available for senior programs, which was published on Feb 13, and applications would be due by noon, Friday March 13. She advised that members should be coordinating with DeDe Gaisthea. Chair Hyatt thanked Ms. Yazzie and asked if there were further questions or comments regarding the agenda item.

5. High Capacity Transit Corridor Updates

Chair Hyatt then invited Mr. Robert Forrest of Valley Metro to present a High Capacity Transit Corridor Update to the Committee. She noted that the item was on the agenda for information, discussion and possible recommendation.

Mr. Forrest began reviewing a brief update on Valley Metro's and the region's future transit corridors and referred to the map on the PowerPoint. He reviewed the Gilbert Road Project LRT Extension, which was now positioned to begin revenue service in spring 2019. RPTA would advertise a Request For Qualifications for Design and CM@Risk in March 2015, and noted that they would be entering the design phase of the project in 2016, with many agreements already having been approved and preliminary engineering now complete. Construction would begin in spring 2016.

For the Capitol/I-10 West LRT Extension, which was due for revenue service in 2023, the project was currently in the Environmental Assessment phase with completion in summer 2015. Coordination with ADOT, Maricopa County and FTA continued. For the South Central project, tentatively due to be completed in 2034, but may be accelerated. The environmental phase was underway along with public scoping meetings, and Preliminary Engineering was due to be completed in the summer of 2016. He added that the City of Phoenix had previously received some TIGER funds to assist with the project. Additional description was given regarding the map. He then explained that the West Phoenix / Central Glendale, due for revenue service in 2026, was currently in the Alternatives Analysis phase which was set for completion in 2016. He reviewed the mainline map alignments, along with the potential routing in downtown Glendale.

Mr. Forrest explained that there would be more detail regarding the Tempe Streetcar project, as many changes had transpired since it was originally brought before the committees and agencies in 2010. He noted that the original 2.6-mile Locally Preferred Alternative was approved in November 2010 by Valley METRO Rail Board and in December 2010 by the MAG Regional Council.

He then explained that there was a need to change the Project Alignment, as the original LPA did not meet FTA Small Starts criteria. In March 2013, the project received Tempe City Council's direction to reconfigure the LPA, to more closely align with new federal criteria. In April 2013 the FTA approved Tempe Streetcar to enter Project Development phase, contingent upon reconfiguring the LPA. Then in June 2014, the Tempe City Council approved the revised LPA, which now featured a length of 3 miles. This alignment featured the highest near and long-term ridership potential, plus it connected key residential, retail and commercial areas, as well as featuring the greatest potential for economic development. For the FTA Small Starts process, the new project cost included an

increase of \$23 million, which Valley Metro was working with the City of Tempe for resolution on identifying the funding source.

Mr. Forrest then explained the Northwest Extension - Phase II project. He noted that in April 2007, the Valley METRO Rail Board approved refined LPA and split it into two distinct phases. In July 2007 the MAG Regional Council approved the RTP with the two phased project approach. In 2013, the City of Phoenix requested a reevaluation of the end terminus of Phase 2, suggesting that the end of line cross to the west side of I-17 in order to access Metrocenter. In November 2014 the City of Phoenix City Council approved the revised LPA, which provided economic development opportunities and improved LRT access for trips originating west of I-17. For the FTA Small Starts process, the new project cost included an increase of \$35 million, which Valley Metro was working with the City of Phoenix for resolution on identifying the funding source.

He then turned the presentation over to Ms. Yazzie. She summarized the next steps process for 2015 and that the following action featured two major elements. In advance of a Small Starts application in September, many moving parts were in play. In February, the Valley METRO Rail Board would consider the amended LPA and recommend that MAG initiate air quality conformity analysis for both the Tempe Streetcar and NW Ext. Phase II. By March, MAG would recommend approval of revised alignments for air quality conformity analysis (AQCA) and noted that Tempe's funding commitment was required by April 24th. Then in May, VMR would approve the TLCP update, including financial plans for both the Tempe Streetcar and NW Ext. Phase II. In May-June, MAG would approve amendments to the TIP and RTP based on financial plans and AQCA, and in August there would be an Environmental finding for only the Tempe project. By September, the Tempe Project would be submitted for an FTA Small Starts Grant Application. Ms. Yazzie concluded by noting that the item was on the agenda for action. For information, discussion and possible recommendation to approve the revised alignment changes to the Tempe Streetcar and Phoenix-Northwest Phase II Light Rail Extension projects to undergo air quality conformity analysis for a future amendment to the MAG 2014-2018 TIP and MAG 2035 RTP. She completed her presentation.

Chair Hyatt thanked Mr. Forrest and Ms. Yazzie and asked if there were any comments from the members. Mr. Jeff Martin of Mesa commented that it was exciting to see all of the progress. He advised that the cost estimates change over time and cautioned folks that cost overruns traditionally occur, noting that the Gilbert Road extension featured expanding costs over its lifetime. Mr. Kevin Link of Glendale explained that the city supported both of these projects, but offered concern in regards to the budget shortfall for Tempe, where there was hesitation, as some of that funding could be taken from PTF and push Glendale LRT's project out of Prop 400. Mr. Lucero of Surprise reiterated the importance of the Glendale Line to transit's success in the West Valley and noted caution as well. Further comment and clarification was offered by members an agency staff.

Mr. Grote explained that Tempe must send a letter of their commitment for local funds to Valley Metro by April 24, which would in turn impact the rest of the schedule. Mr. Anderson inquired on when the funding process would return to Transit Committee after Valley Metro, and Ms. Yazzie responded that it would be May. Chair Hyatt thanked the members and asked if there were any further questions or comments regarding the agenda item. Hearing none, she called for a motion on

the approval of the agenda item. Mr. Martin Lucero of Surprise moved to approve the motion as outlined with the assurance that it would return at the May meeting, Mr. Kevin Link of Glendale seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Chair Hyatt then proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

6. Schedule Update on the Fiscal Year 2015 Program of Projects

Chair Hyatt invited Ms. Alice Chen of MAG to provide an update on the region's annual Program of Projects (POP) for FY2015.

Ms. Chen explained that the Schedule Update on the Fiscal Year 2015 Program of Projects was something that MAG performed each year for the Federal Transit Administration. She noted that the POP was required by FTA to provide an annual listing of Transit Projects funded by the Section 5307 program. She said that one requirement was that the POP was developed in consultation and coordination with interested parties, public transit services providers and was subject to public participation requirements that were fulfilled by the MAG Public Participation Plan.

She then reviewed the time-line for the process in backwards format, from the end of the FFY on September 30, 2015 ascending to February 2015. The funds must go into a grant that shuts down in August, which required that the City of Phoenix prepare the grants in July. That meant that MAG must approve the TIP in June, which meant that in May the MAG Transit Committee must proceed with approval, and draft approval in April. She noted that there were a few unknowns at the time, specifically how much the region would be getting from the FTA and ADOT. She added that the FTA did release partial apportionment for FY 2015 (as of 2/10/2015), which translated into approx .666 (66 percent), of FY 2015 estimated full year apportionment. She added that compared to FY 2014, it was pretty similar to this year's range and commented on a few other items.

Ms. Chen then recapped the nine MAG Guidelines for Transportation Programming Priorities, as approved on March 27, 2013. 1) provide services and improvements as required by law under MAP-21, that was required for 1% of 5307 funds to be used for transit security or be able to certify that it was not necessary; 2) provided funding for support services for grant management to the designated recipient, the City of Phoenix; for FY2012, it was \$40,000; 3). fund Preventive Maintenance(PM)/ operations at 25% of 5307 such as PM funding for the Phoenix-Mesa-Glendale UZA would be distributed based on approved methodology outlined in Section 400. The baseline funding would be 25% of 5307 funds; and Avondale/Goodyear UZA would receive operations funding in line with 2012 for the FY TIP years 2014-2018; 4). fund the Job Access Reverse Commute (Section 703 JARC) program; 5). support the Transit Life Cycle Program (TLCP) capital bus program; 6). support the TLCP capital facility program; 7). support the TLCP regional transit super-grid service; 8). support the other TLCP projects as the program is updated; 9) and fund additional projects.

Ms. Chen then summarized the projects and their schedules for the coming months. In March she would return to the Transit Committee with an update on the status of draft apportionment, grant management, Preventive Maintenance formula percentages, JARC Updates (if any), the TLCP

Capital Bus Facilities, the 700 MHZ transit radio program. In April the region was looking forward to hearing from the FTA on final apportionment, PM, bus rolling stock needs, the final update for the Scottsdale LINK/BRT, final recommendations for the Avondale-Goodyear UZA and an FY2015 Draft POP. In May the final elements would include METRO Rail - CMAQ dollars and the FY2015 POP Final. She added a few housekeeping items that included the summer/fall updating of the JARC Program for FY 2016 and beyond, and the updates of both the Short Range Transit Program and the Transit standards and performance measures. She then completed her presentation.

Chair Hyatt thanked Ms. Chen and asked if there were any comments from the members. Mr. Lucero inquired if the Committee would be looking at the evaluation criteria that had been discussed in 2014 when programming the two years. She affirmed that it would be a part of the discussion for the update, and that she would be reviewing last year's attire process during the summer. Mr. Jason Crampton of Chandler inquired about the potential unspent dollars in item #9, and how the distribution would occur via VM's SRTP or MAG's competitive grant application process. She replied that an ideal situation would be the two processes working hand in hand, not independently. She added that we had the summer to figure out the revised process, so the funds would be available in the fall. Chair Hyatt thanked the members and asked if there were any further questions or comments regarding the agenda item. Hearing none she proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

7. Semiannual Status Report on Federal Grant Activity

Chair Hyatt introduced Mr. Ken Kessler of the City of Phoenix Transit Department. She advised that Phoenix was the Designated Recipient of federal transit funds, and that Mr. Kessler and his staff were available to answer committee questions for the Semiannual Status Report on Federal Grant Activity ending with December 31, 2014. Chair Hyatt asked if there were any questions or comments on the agenda item. Hearing no further comments, she proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

8. Request for Future Agenda Items

Chair Hyatt asked the members of the Committee if there were any issues that they would like added as future agenda items. Ms. Kristin Myers of Gilbert requested that Arizona Department of Transportation present an update on the Tucson-Phoenix Passenger Rail Study. Chair Hyatt noted that they would be asked to present at a future meeting. Hearing no further comments, Chair Hyatt proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

9. Next Meeting Date

Chair Hyatt thanked those present and announced that the next meeting of the MAG Transit Committee would be held on Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the MAG Ironwood Room. There being no further business, Chair Hyatt adjourned the meeting at 11:00am.